carrying forward the dialogue process, the leaders reiterated their commitments and determination to implement the joint statements of January 6, 2004, September 24, 2004, April 18, 2005 and September 14, 2005. They strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and agreed that terrorism is a scourge that needs to be effectively dealt with. They decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations. The leaders decided to continue the joint search for mutually acceptable options for a peaceful negotiated settlement of all issues between India and Pakistan, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, in a sincere and purposeful manner. On the Jammu and Kashmir issue, there had been useful discussions. They agreed on the need to build on convergences and narrow down divergences. They also directed the Foreign Secretaries to meet in New Delhi to continue the composite dialogue and arrange for consultations on the Siachen issue. It was agreed to hold a meeting of Experts to discuss the coordinates for joint survey of Sir Creek and adjoining areas and for discussions on the maritime boundary. Both sides agreed to facilitate implementation of agreements and understandings already reached on LOC-related CBMs, including on bus services, crossing points and truck service.

(c) The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on November 14-15, 2006. The two sides agreed to set up a three-member anti-terror mechanism to be headed by Additional Secretaries with a mandate to consider counter terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information. The progress in the third round of the Composite Dialogue was also reviewed. The two Foreign Secretaries also exchanged views on Siachen. On Sir Creek both sides agreed to hold a meeting of experts on 22-23 December 2006, Measures to facilitate implementation of LoC related CBMs were also discussed. The Foreign Secretaries agreed to meet in February 2007 in Islamabad to launch the next round of the Composite Dialogue.

**Restriction against North Korea**

†1682. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has requested Government of India to impose United Nations Security Coucils' strict restrictions against North Korea; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Several countries including US, UK and Australia have shared with India their approach to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, which was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on October 14, 2006 under Article 41 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. The Resolution obliges all member States of the United Nations to adopt restrictive measures in specified areas against North Korea.

**Taro Aso Programme for human exchange**

1683. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a programme *viz* "Taro Aso Programme for Human Exchange" with Japanese Government;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and how many people have been sent to Japan so far under this Programme, during the year 2006; and

(c) the number of applications that are pending and what action are being taken on these pending applications to avoid the loosing of current years Quota?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the official visit of Foreign Minister Taro Aso of Japan to India from January 3-4, 2006, the decision of the Japanese side to launch the "Aso Programme", which would involve exchange of 4000 persons over the next three years in the fields of Japanese language, technology, youth interaction, etc., was conveyed. The Indian side expressed its appreciation for this initiative, which would promote people-to-people contacts. The Programme is an initiative of the Government of Japan and is being implemented by the Japanese side.

**Pact with China for tourists**

1684. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: